

6-20-1974

## Resist Newsletter, June 1974

Resist

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/resistnewsletter>

---

### Recommended Citation

Resist, "Resist Newsletter, June 1974" (1974). *Resist Newsletters*. 151.  
<https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/resistnewsletter/151>



# RESIST

*a call to resist  
illegitimate authority*

20 June 1974 - 720 Massachusetts Avenue, No. 4, Cambridge, Mass. 02139 Newsletter No. 82

## ORGANIZING THE FACULTY

Henry Rosemont Jr.

(Editor's note: this is the second in a two-part series on higher education. Paul Lauter's "Crisis in Education" appeared in last month's Newsletter.)

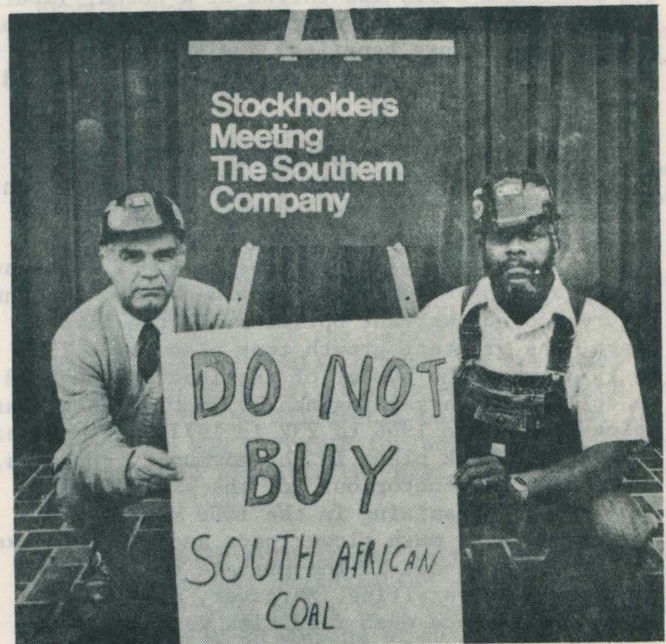
The United States is undergoing major changes as large corporations and the government attempt to restructure the domestic economic order to compensate for their declining control of the world order. These changes are being felt in higher education, and for college teachers the changes are almost wholly adverse: job security for senior faculty is being threatened, and is virtually non-existent for junior faculty; control of courses, curricula, admissions and other school policies is being taken away by educational managers; pay scales are increasingly inadequate to deal with near-runaway inflation; and the traditional disciplines in which most college teachers have been trained are being neglected in favor of a "new vocationalism" -- of questionable worth to anyone seeking an education, but highly profitable for businesses wanting workers narrowly trained at someone else's expense.

The obvious response to these threats is for college and university faculties to organize, but the obviousness continues to escape most of them, and the idea that they constitute a workforce remains an anathema. Elitism in the academic professions is only slightly less pervasive today -- especially in the high-status private schools -- than it was before the campus anti-war activities of the 1960's. And this elitism may well be endemic, because it survives despite the loss of faculty rights and responsibilities, despite the loss of much research funding, despite the many students who are either apathetic or antipathetic to most of what is taught, and despite the loss of prestige for natural and social sciences brought about by university complicity in the Indochina war and in the destruction of the environment.

In addition to elitism, there are other factors which inhibit the growth of teacher unions in colleges and universities. Many faculty identify themselves with their school, and view unions as disruptive of their "community of learning". The President of NYU relied heavily on this identification last autumn as he fought successfully against organizational efforts among his faculty. Still other academics identify closely, and almost solely, with their own discipline, through the vehicle of the professional association. Some of these associations are making tardy and token efforts to face up to a few of the problems facing their members by creating ad hoc committees on

## SOUTH AFRICAN COAL?

(Editor's note: Information for the following article comes from Andy Himes of the Selma Project and Liberation News Service.)



On May 22, the stockholders of the Southern Company, a holding company which owns power companies, coal mines, and electric generating stations in four Deep South states, met for their annual meeting at the Kohler-Plaza Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama. Alvin Mogle, Southern's President, announced to great applause that profits for the past year had climbed to \$154 million.

Outside the hotel, applause from approximately 1500 demonstrators greeted Mrs. John Marchant, wife of a retired Alabama coal miner, when she said, "We are fighting for the same things; freedom, the right to a decent life, and the right to control our own lives. The United Mine Workers has been brought up with a lot of blood, death, and struggle. We have had to fight for everything we have. Now we have to fight again and the only way we can win is by sticking together."

The occasion for Mrs. Marchant's speech was a rally held in conjunction with a one-day walk-out by 8000 coalminers throughout Alabama. The rally was organized by the Coalition to Stop South African Coal, and represented the largest expression of working class solidarity and militancy



the status of women, blacks, and other minorities in their profession: but these associations in general have neither the will nor the ability to affect significantly the deteriorating conditions on campuses, which transcend any and all of the individual fields of study.

Elitism, school loyalties, and "professionalism" thus account for the failure of academics to struggle collectively on a large scale against the threats to their positions. Indeed, these factors hinder academics from even coming to grips with the facts of those threats. The language of trade unionism is seldom heard in faculty circles, even though it is entirely appropriate. Instead, increasing numbers of teachers are simply "non-reappointed"; no one is ever fired. Similarly, a teacher's instructional responsibilities may be increased from three to four, and/or class enrollments may jump from 25 to 50 per course; but there are no job speed-ups. And adjunct faculty, who often carry two-thirds of a normal faculty workload for one-fifth of the salary (and without most of the fringe benefits) are merely serving out their apprenticeship; they are not exploited labor.

The inability of college faculties to act collectively even in their own self-interest can be seen from the figures charting the growth of unions in higher education over the last eight years. There is a widespread belief that successful organizing efforts are growing apace, but the figures do not warrant optimism. In the first place, the greatest growth took place from 1966 to 1971, when the number of institutions engaged in collective bargaining nearly doubled each year, going from 11 in 1966 to 232 in 1971. But most of this growth took place in the community colleges, which have been notorious for the exploitation of faculty; organizing in the four year schools progressed at a much slower pace and did not make any progress at all in the private colleges and Ivy League universities. Moreover, most of this growth took place when faculties were still in a period of expansion rather than contraction. The "crunch" has only gotten into high gear in the last three years, but in that time organizational efforts have been much less successful: in 1972, only 55 more bargaining agents were elected (an increase of about 25%), and in 1973, only 21 more schools were added, an increase of only 9%. These figures are supported by the numbers of all faculties represented by bargaining agents in the same period: rising twenty-fold from 3000 in 1966 to 67,300 in 1971, 12,000 more were added in 1972, and only 2,800 joined the ranks in 1973 -- less than a third as many as were added in 1967. The situation is not improving; in the Autumn, 1973-74 semester, only 16 schools even held representative elections, and fully half of them failed to vote in any union.

There is thus little support for the view that college teachers are beginning to see themselves as workers. Organizational efforts, even along lines of pure self-interest, are proving to be a difficult and time-consuming task, and are meeting with only minimum success.

For radical academics the problem is an acute one. Failure to resist current trends in

higher education is simultaneously failure to resist the reorganization efforts of US capitalism. But resistance will only be effective in collective actions, yet the evidence suggests that collective efforts may not be possible, and even if they are, the results may well be no more than the re-instatement of elitist faculty privileges and perquisites. How then can faculty members come to see that they are workers, and even more importantly, come to see all other workers as fellow strugglers for a just and decent society?

The answer will probably not be univocal, as different schools will require different efforts. Some general insights, however, may be gained from the example of the most effective faculty union today. The Professional Staff Congress (PSC) is the bargaining agent for the instructional staffs of the twenty colleges which comprise the City University of New York (CUNY). With a Graduate Center, Brooklyn, Queens, and Hunter Colleges, CCNY, four other four year colleges and eleven community colleges, CUNY is the third largest university system in the US (behind the State University of New York and University of California systems): it has almost 17,000 full and part-time faculty and approximately a quarter of a million students. A little over 50% of the faculty pay dues to the PSC, and the union has won raises and fringe benefits for members and non-members alike which make them, on average, the highest paid teachers in the world.



"Sure, I knew the rich were getting richer and the poor were getting poorer—but I thought I was one of the rich ones."

Continued attacks from the Board of Higher Education and the legislature, coupled with the needs of many of its members, have made it impossible for the PSC to rest on the merits of economic victories. The latest contract requires the university, for example, to grant maternity or paternity leave to faculty members without the loss of their years of service toward tenure. Prior to this contract, five years of uninterrupted service in a CUNY school were necessary before a teacher could be eligible for tenure. Thus, a woman desiring to take leave for a year to care for her child -- men couldn't even apply -- lost whatever years of service she had accumulated and because all pre-tenure appointments are made



## STRATEGIES for the 70's:

### ON THE NEED FOR A MASS PARTY OF THE PEOPLE

(The following was a condensed version of a paper drawn up by some members of the National Interim Committee for a Mass Party of the People for consideration at an expanded NIC meeting, June 1-2. The scope of the discussions is so vast that we can only touch upon some of the points in this limited space. For more information, and for the revised paper, write the NIC at 156 Fifth Avenue, Room 812, New York, New York, 10010.)

It is hard to say who is in greater disarray at the moment, the forces of the right, or those of us on the left who are trying to expand and implement the political and social vision that flows from the struggles of the 50's and 60's. They are discredited and unable to make their system work; we are fragmented and in need of organizational forms that will unify our many struggles without robbing any of them of their unique importance or subjecting them to the heavy hand of organizational bureaucracy or a monolithic party line.

We know that what is sensed by millions is that the system of economic, political and social relations that has dominated this country since its founding is bankrupt. And we know there will be no solution until the people of the country take control of their lives by taking control of the institutions that oppress and exploit them. A society in which the natural resources, the accumulated forces of production and creative energies of the people are at the service of the people's needs--a socialist society--has been the dream of the most advanced thinkers of every important social movement in the country's history. Today fulfillment of that dream is on the current agenda of history--the crisis of the system has thrown it forward as the urgently required solution to the immediate problems of the people.

Nonetheless, we must face some harsh truths. The seemingly objective, socialist solution to the crisis of American capitalism is not inevitable. In a desperate attempt to suppress popular opposition and to extricate the system from economic disaster, the ruling class may resort to an American form of facism, accompanied by bloody military adventures abroad and the danger of nuclear destruction of the entire world.

How ironic and dangerous it is that the activists and organizers of the left are fragmented and divided at such a time. We must put behind us ancient antagonisms and current resentments in order to create what the times call for--a strategy for victory, a strategy which boldly declares that its aim is for the people to take control of every economic, social and political institution.

What kind of organization can become strong enough and remain free enough to accomplish this objective? How much do we have to agree on and how much can we agree to disagree on in order to join in building such an organization? How does such an organization become from the beginning an instrument of the people and not itself degenerate into an instrument of domination and control over the people? It would be arrogant

to suggest that any of us know the full answers to these questions. Fuller answers will emerge from continued discussions and from the lessons of actual experience gained in the struggles. But from the experiences of the last two decades and from initial discussions that have been taking place, certain answers have begun to emerge. They point in the direction of a strategy which would have at its core the building of a mass-based political party of the people. Such a party would have at its heart, as its fundamental program, the transfer of power from the state and corporations to the people, the creation of a society in which production for use and for the welfare of all replaces production for profit.

Let us consider first why the strategy we propose must center around the building of a party which, while built in every local area and rooted in local initiative and control, must be national in character and concept.

The corporate rulers of this country are too powerful and the stakes too high on a global plane for anyone to expect that the elimination of their rule could possibly be accomplished without the total coordination of every ounce of strength in every conceivable section of the oppressed peoples of the country. Whether the unified strength of the people can be hurled against the particular crevice in the enemy's position at precisely the moment of a given crisis can make the difference between a vast leap forward in the struggle for power or it can mean, as it has so often in the past, just another "lost opportunity."

Why build a political party rather than just another national organization?

A political party is a form which is deeply embedded in the thinking of millions of Americans as embodying the concept of bidding for political power. The concept of a political party of the people boldly presents the radical and startling idea that political parties which take power do not have to be controlled by the wealthy rulers of society but can belong to the people. There are in addition many practical reasons why the form of a political party is decisive; not the least is the ability, inherent in the form, to continue a long and potentially successful struggle to maintain its legality and ability to function openly as long as possible against inevitable attempts to render it illegal and crush it. But most important of all: the open organization of a political party says to millions of people that the taking of control is a serious and realistic objective--and that we are organizing now the political instrument to reach this goal.

The party we build must truly be what its name implies--in reality a party of the people. It dare not be the creation of and exclusive property of a handful of radical intellectuals.

It must in the first instance be a party of working people. Since the heart of the problems of capitalist society lies in the private ownership of socialized means of production, the reso-

Continued on page 4



lution of this contradiction will occur only when the workers take the control of the productive forces into their own hands. It is essential that we not be paralyzed by sterile and dogmatic formulations out of the past suggesting that the "working class" will be the "only leading revolutionary force." What we must all understand is that the bankruptcy of the capitalist system has so infested and poisoned every aspect of society that today virtually everyone has an objective and real stake in doing away with the power of the corporate rulers. This means that an "academic discussion as to which group is "most advanced," is the leading group, is not particularly helpful at best, and enervating and divisive at worst.

What we must constantly stress is that the key to the taking of power lies today in an alliance of all the oppressed peoples. In this alliance, from time to time, one or another of the oppressed groups will assume leadership, and this in turn will stimulate other groups to respond to the degree that mutual confidence and understanding has been established in the course of daily work and struggles. The road to victory lies in the ability of all the oppressed groups to learn to respond at the historic moment to the initiative one of the groups has taken and, at the proper time, to launch a general offensive against the rulers at the instant they are reeling from the shock of the particular crisis.

The party of the people must be a party in which Blacks participate fully in the initial organizing and leadership. This insistence flows not exclusively from moral indignation or from deep feelings of guilt, but from an understanding of the special features of the origin and history of American capitalism. The unique aspect of the origin of American capitalism--the primitive accumulation of capital taken from the internal slave trade and slave economy--built into the very heart of the system as a basic internal contradiction the fundamental conflict between imperialist country and colony which in most other capitalist countries exists as an external contradiction. When the dynamics of the upsurge to complete the struggle for Black liberation and the unfulfilled democratic revolution of the internal colony merges with the power of working class struggles against capital, an insight into the special features of the history of the country opens up, which presents a key to the shaking of the foundations of capitalist rule. A party of the people which understands this extraordinary dynamic will insist upon the full participation of Blacks in the party, and a constant struggle against racism in all its forms.

And since the problems of Black liberation are both separate and distinct, the party must simultaneously develop the closest working relationships with Black political organizations committed to the struggle for the freedom of Blacks. This will require the development of the organizational principle of dualism in which working

alliances with Black political organizations develop simultaneously with the building of a mass party in which Blacks participate fully.

The party must also have deeply embedded in its structure, program and leadership an understanding of the special and central quality of the struggle for the freedom of women. This understanding calls for an insistence that the initial organizing and leadership be fully participated in by women. This insistence is also based not only upon a "moral imperative" but also from an understanding of the objective basis for the power and strength of women as an "historical agency" for fundamental social change. This comes from a recognition of women as a super-exploited class of workers, not only in their work in the factory, but in their work in the production and the reproduction of the commodity known as "living labor", the working class itself, without which the capitalist system of production for profit could not exist. There also must be an honest and unending struggle against the ideologies and practices of male supremacy as the party is built. And, as in the case with Blacks, a principle of dualism must be established in relation to the organizations of women.

Though we have discussed the principle of dualism in the context of the Black and women's movement, it is important to stress that it will also apply to many other groups and organizations.

The party of the people must dedicate itself to the struggle against U.S. imperialism at home and abroad. It must in every way express its solidarity with all those who are resisting imperialist domination. This solidarity flows not merely from a deep moral commitment but out of the recognition that only through the joint efforts of all the peoples of the world can the power of U.S. imperialism be broken.

We must build a new way of work, a new way of life, both within the party and in the course of its relationships with other organizations of the people moving in the direction of freedom from capitalist domination. We must maintain a way of work which reflects equality and mutual respect and we must struggle against elitism, commandism and hierarchical domination. Any concept that the party is in any way an elite group of "leaders" who are making decisions for the "masses" will destroy from the beginning any chance of success in organizing a political force powerful enough to challenge the present corporate rulers. This understanding flows from one of the most fundamental truths of the history of social change--that the people themselves make history. Those decisions of a political party which are fateful to the course of history must be grounded in the reality and thinking of the people.

A party which is born out of the realization that the historic moment has arrived when the American people can take control over their own lives and destinies cannot in its own life-style negate the very essence of its being. It must not function itself as an instrument of control and domination.



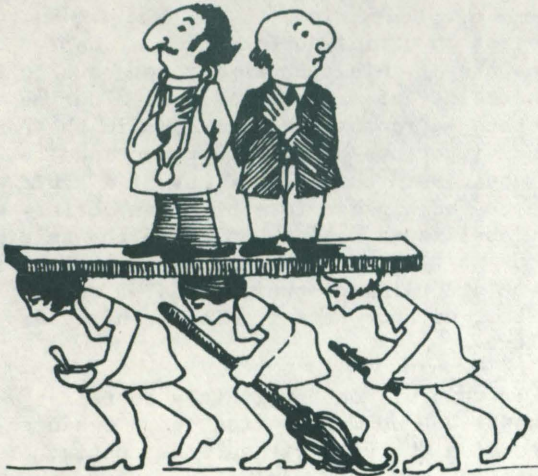
# THE LINCOLN HOSPITAL COLLECTIVE

(Thanks to "temperatures rising", the Lincoln Hospital Collective's newsletter for this article)

The Lincoln Collective is an organization of professional and semi-professional health workers united around the desire to improve health care at Lincoln Hospital. Although most of the members are doctors, people have also been drawn from other departments such as nursing, social work, and patient accounts.

Presently, the Collective is organized into three groups. Each group has two main functions, both of which are primarily educational in nature. The first function is the political education of its members. The second is to work on a project which we believe will be helpful in correcting or calling attention to problem areas of health delivery at Lincoln.

The political education program is designed to heighten our sensitivity to the problems of the patients we serve, and to acquire a thorough understanding of the American health system. We are also studying the role America plays in world affairs, since we believe that the state of health in any country is largely determined by social and political factors. To accomplish this we draw on our own experiences and a wide range of literature exploring these problems. Some of the recent themes of our recent political education program have been: (1) an ongoing analysis of doctors' attitudes toward other health workers stemming from the doctor's tradition and medical school education; (2) a comparison of the parallels between the French colonial medical system in Algeria and the relationship of Lincoln Hospital doctors to their Black and Puerto Rican patients; and (3) a study of United States imperialism. The books that we are studying from are Franz Fanon's "Medicine and Colonialism" and Felix Greene's "The Enemy".



Complementing the internal character of the political education program are the concrete programs which the Collective is in the process of developing. While the three groups participate

in the same political education studies, each group is engaged in a different project area. After extensive discussion, these project areas were chosen by the Collective as areas in which we could have the most impact.

The three major areas of concentration are patient rights, patient education, and outreach. Currently, the patient rights group is writing a patient information booklet for distribution to Lincoln Hospital patients and workers. Its purpose is twofold: to help gain acceptance for the concept that patients have "rights" and to provide information about hospital services which are often difficult to acquire.

The patient education group is active in three specific areas. Already, pamphlets have been written in everyday language about such diseases as asthma and the common cold. Initially, distribution will be centered around the clinics, wards, and pediatric emergency for patients and staff. These pamphlets represent only the first in a series on common health problems. Still in the planning stage are hospital-wide social medicine conferences which will focus on political and social issues as they affect medical practice. Finally, one section of the group is involved in exploring the uses of video-TV as an educational tool for patients and workers within the hospital.

The main task of the outreach group is to publish the Lincoln Collective newsletter, whose function will be to report developments and expose problems at Lincoln Hospital. We also hope that the newsletter will serve as a forum for our readers to bring to our attention the issues that concern them and to express their opinions about the articles that we publish.

Members of the Collective are required to pay a minimum of \$5 a month dues. The Collective meets once a week. At these meetings we discuss personal problems which arise in the course of working together, the progress of the various projects, and topics which have aroused special interest.

The struggle to remold the American health system so that it effectively "serves the people" is not just a local one. Nationwide, the vast majority of Americans do not receive adequate health care. While the major focus of our work is to improve health care at Lincoln, we realize that what is necessary is impossible except within the context of a fundamental change of the health industry's priorities. To achieve this goal we recognize the importance of uniting with all groups that are dedicated to building a patient orientated health system. Though the Lincoln Collective is small in numbers, we hope that our efforts will encourage more people to join the health struggle.



in Alabama in almost a decade. The rally was made up overwhelmingly of miners, but rank and file workers from a score of other unions also participated, including members of the United Steelworkers, United Electrical Workers, and Almagamated Clothing Workers. These groups were joined by local civil rights activists and supporters of African liberation movements, including the African Liberation Support Committee.

At issue was a contract signed by the Southern Company to import two million tons, or \$50 million worth of coal from South African coal producers over the next three years. The first coal will be brought into the Port of Mobile and will be burnt at generating stations in Florida. The contract is just the first step in a long and lasting relationship between South African coal producers and U.S. energy monopolies. According to the magazine South African Scope, other U.S. companies are "negotiating to acquire a coal deposit for themselves, and failing in this are prepared to acquire a large share in an existing South African coal company."

The energy monopolies are after South African coal because it is low in sulphur content and thus enables them to meet air pollution standards without dipping into profits for new pollution equipment. Moreover, South African coal is competitive in price with U.S. coal in spite of huge transportation costs because the South African owners pay black workers dirt-cheap wages, which are less than one twentieth of what their white supervisors are paid. Blacks are forced to work in the mines; it is illegal for a Black to refuse a job which is offered. Unions with Black membership are forbidden. Strikes by Black miners are totally prohibited and constitute criminal offenses. They are excluded from sick pay, unemployment benefits, etc. Almost 800 miners die every year, and over 4000 are injured in mining accidents, or at four times the death rate for U.S. miners. In spite of legal repression, the last year has seen an increasingly militant drive by South African miners to gain the right to organize.

The importation of coal from South Africa presents a direct attack on miners and the entire U.S. working class. The strength of the UMW is threatened by the purchase of coal from a country which operates a highly exploitative economic system based on enforced, slave labor for the benefit of the small white minority. The Southern Company's contract alone will eliminate the jobs of 375 U.S. miners. In the statement read at the rally from UMW President Arnold Miller, Southern was accused of "subsidizing conscript labor at the expense of American miners, who will lose jobs to blacks in South Africa working under slave labor conditions. The Southern Company's action threatens the well-being of large areas whose economies are dependent on coal production and supports South African policies of apartheid under which human beings are treated as commodities and forbidden the rights which we take for granted. We condemn these policies and all who support them."

Equally important, a party which from the very beginning is broadly democratic and involves many people contains the seeds of the future--a democratic and decentralized society. The more massive the base of people who are involved in the developing struggle for the taking of power, the greater likelihood that a truly democratic, decentralized society will develop quickly after the taking of control from the ruling class.

In the course of the initial discussions throughout the country, several questions concerning the strategic direction and program of the proposed party of the people have come up constantly. We touch upon them here to indicate the directions of the discussions.

A party of the people must be prepared to enter fully into the struggle in every available arena. This will necessarily include participation in election struggles on every level. But it equally precludes any concept that the party can ever be primarily or exclusively electoral in thrust. The decision to participate in an election struggle must reflect the solid conviction that the struggle to take power is a real one, neither a purely "agitational" protest, nor an opportunistic maneuver to aid a "liberal" capitalist "lesser evil". Such electoral struggles would have to be constantly combined with every other form of struggle.

The question of whether the party will be "explicitly socialist" will continue to be discussed throughout all of the preliminary organizing stages. However, there are certain guidelines to the discussion which have emerged.

For the first time in history a victorious people would be faced with the perspective of being able to construct a new society in which the material forces of production are already more than sufficiently developed to provide for an economy of plenty. Unlike the experiences of the socialist countries during the past half-century, the people of this country may not have to face the necessity of a prolonged period during which the state--a repressive form even in the hands of the victorious people--must continue to exist. This could mean the possibility of a rapid transition to the highest form of human society we can yet visualize--a society in which the guiding concept is "from each according to their abilities, to each according to their needs," a society without fear, without terror, without harshness and cruelty.

Is this vision "explicitly socialist"? We think so, but we warn against any mechanical reliance upon the word without the context of this discussion. How to describe and phrase this new and exciting vision in words understandable to large numbers of people is a challenge we should welcome in the discussions to come.



for one year only, she also ran a significant risk of not even being re-appointed after her year of leave. The new leave conditions are by no means ideal; only full-time faculty are eligible, and the leaves are unpaid, but the working conditions of faculty women have certainly been improved, and thereby the conditions of the male faculty as well.

The PSC has also struggled successfully against a "tenure quota" system imposed by the old Board of Higher Education (the governing body of CUNY) last November, before a new Board was appointed in January. Under the quota system, any member of any department with 50% of its faculty tenured had to provide evidence of extraordinary accomplishments on his or her part, or else not be granted tenure. The administration, not colleagues, decided whether the member's work was extraordinary. Due to PSC efforts and lobbying by the AFT and Albert Shanker, the new Board rescinded the quota system. What makes those efforts noteworthy is the fact that junior faculty and adjuncts are under-represented in the union; the majority of the PSC membership comes from the already tenured ranks, who thus would not be affected directly by a quota system. Why, then, did the PSC fight quotas so strenuously?

The answer is straightforward: another item being considered by the Board was the establishment of a "post-tenure review" system, a semantically camouflaged method of abolishing tenure altogether. Junior faculty would have to support the "review" program if the quota system was allowed to stand, and consequently solidarity was needed to fight both quotas and reviews. In the same way, solidarity among all members of the union will be necessary if the faculties are not to dance to an old tune with new words: "affirmative action" can easily be used to set women and minority members against white males, thereby breaking down job control and security.

It may be argued that fighting tenure quotas and similar union actions are not particularly radical efforts. Some people believe that administrations today are more liberal than faculties, that there are many incompetent academics, and that the problem of the current surplus of teachers -- with many of those unemployed among the radicals -- is not solved by strengthening the position of the already entrenched. To these arguments there are three replies: (1) support for the liberal-administration thesis is not much in evidence, although ameliorative policies in consonance with the needs of the corporations are in evidence everywhere; (2) admittedly there are college teachers who are incompetent by any definition of the term, but it would certainly not be progressive to allow the term to be defined by boards whose members are drawn largely from the ranks of government and big business; (3) when there are classes so large that all of the students cannot fit into a single large lecture hall, and when the curricula in which the student may spend his or her entire college career in classes with no fewer than forty students, there is no surplus of teachers; there is simply an ordering of educational priorities dictated not by human needs, but by the demands of production.

As a final illustration of the progressive possibilities of faculty unionism, the stance of the PSC towards the Open Admissions policy of the City University shows that actions threatening to US capitalism can be taken even by a group whose members, on the whole, are not hostile to that economic order. Making the facilities of colleges and universities available to absolutely everyone is clearly a blow to a system in which money, corporate needs, and personal associations have traditionally been the dominant considerations in distributing higher education in this country. Under the Open Admissions policy of CUNY, every graduate of a New York City high school is guaranteed a place in one of the University's schools, usually the college of the student's own choosing. Contrary to popular opinion, open admissions does not primarily affect those blacks and Puerto Ricans who are ill-prepared for college; roughly three-fourths of all open admissions students come from working class Irish, Jewish, or Italian backgrounds. Most blacks and Puerto Ricans are enrolled under the SEEK and "Outreach" programs which predate Open Admissions. Yet, even though racism is not the motivating factor, most CUNY faculty are privately opposed to open admissions, and sometimes are publicly so, as the minutes of faculty meetings in the CUNY schools will attest. "The standards are being lowered", and "the quality of the degree is being cheapened", are the statements usually given for opposition -- an unusual reply given that the Open Admissions program is only four years old and consequently virtually no students who were admitted in this way have received a degree yet, cheap or otherwise. But their personal antipathy to open admissions notwithstanding, CUNY faculty members are realizing that if they do not fight for control over admissions policies, those policies will be set by the University administration and the Board of Higher Education. Consequently, and almost in spite of themselves, the PSC has taken a strong stand on behalf of Open Admissions to the extent of attempting to write its retention into the union contract.

The PSC is not at all the present-day equivalent of the IWW. Socialism is not advocated by the union, no significant attempts have been made to include non-instructional workers such as maintenance people, secretaries, and other CUNY employees in the membership, and the PSC is affiliated with the AFT (and thereby with Albert Shanker), which simultaneously affiliates them with the AFL-CIO (and thereby George Meany). But the union has done some effective work, and its radical caucuses are growing, all of which suggests that radical faculty should take the attitude of the inveterate gambler who was asked why he played consistently in a dishonest poker game: "It may be crooked, but it's the only game in town."

Elitism and other diseases that appear congenital among academics are curable, and healthy college faculties can become good comrades in the fight against oppressive institutions and illegitimate authority. The first prescription: get organized.



# GRANTS

## APRIL - JUNE

### FIGHT BACK

c/o Politische Buchandlung, 69 Marstall Street,  
11A West Germany

Fight Back is a group of G.I.s involved in legal counselling, anti-imperialist organizing and aid to families of G.I.'s. The grant was to cover costs of a newspaper and educational programs.

### INTER-NEWS

P.O. Box 4400, Berkeley, California, 94704  
Inter-News received a loan to cover the editing costs of a film they have made on North Vietnam which will be shown on educational T.V. and perhaps C.B.S. Inter-News produces radio and television programs and films on Third World struggles.

### NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS ON LATIN AMERICA

P.O. Box 57, Cathedral Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10025.  
For the last eight years NACLA has produced research and publications on Latin America. The grant is for a filmstrip on education in Cuba.

### COFFEE BREAK

1276 Riverside, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.  
Coffee Break is part of the Women's Union of Baltimore, a group of about forty socialist feminists. In the past year they have organized a series of educationals for working class women dealing with work conditions in the Baltimore area, the rising cost of living and women's work in the home. The grant is for printing costs and meeting place expenses.

### SOMERVILLE WOMEN'S HEALTH PROJECT

326 Somerville Ave., Somerville, Mass. 02143.  
The project is a women's collective organized in 1971 to provide free medical, educational, and counseling services to low income Somerville women and children, while organizing political work around health issues in the community. The project has very strong community ties and works with a number of local groups on political issues. The grant will help publish their newsletter.

### DOMINICAN WORKING GROUP

132 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., 02116  
This grant is to enable the DWG to distribute a NACLA periodical devoted to the struggle in the Dominican Republic. Through its publication, "LA LUCHA", the DWG is involved in an extensive educational campaign on U.S. imperialism in the Dominican Republic.

### MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY UNION

P.O. Box 185, Morgantown, W. Virginia 26505.  
The Union is drawn from the Appalachian Mountain Youth Collective and the Black Lung Association. Much of their work is among rank and file members of the United Mine Workers and they also do excellent research on the economic infrastructure of Appalachia.

### SOUTH BALTIMORE VOICE

207 East Montgomery, Baltimore, Maryland 21230  
The VOICE is a community newspaper serving a predominately white working class community. All of the staff of the paper work in organizing activities around mental health, tenant organizing, local school problems, women's organizing and strike support. The grant will be used for repairs to their storefront.

### ASOCIACION DE TRABAJADORES AGRICOLA

c/o U.P.A., 639 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139  
ATA is a labor organization of over 1,000 migrant farmworkers on the East coast. It is predominantly Puerto Rican but also has members from other national groups, especially Afro-Americans. It is currently running campaign for certification elections at a subsidiary of Gulf and Western. The grant is to pay costs for a fundraising mailing.

### WOMEN'S HISTORY GROUP

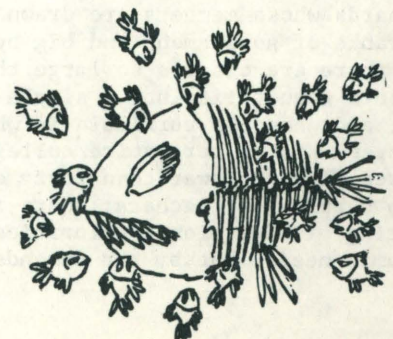
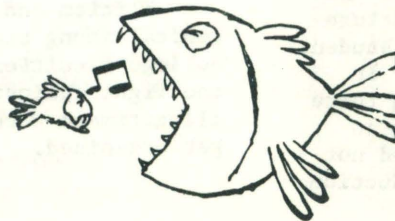
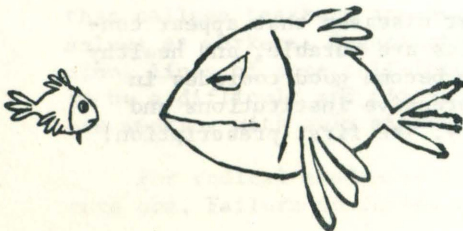
507 Capp Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94110.  
This group has produced a pamphlet dealing with the history of working class women in the United States. It is part of a multi-media project about the working conditions and struggles against injustice of working class women. It will be used by people organizing in unions and communities and also in classrooms.

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR DISARMAMENT & PEACE

6, Endsleigh St., London W.C.1.  
A grant for a conference on prospects for revolution and imperialism in Southeast Asia, and a research project on the Middle East.

### AFRICAN PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST PARTY

405 S.W. 8th Ave., Gainesville, Florida 32601.  
This group is involved in strike support, legal defense and prison organizing. The grant is to help publish their newspaper "The Burning Spear".



QUIN  
TANA